

# News Release



**For Immediate Release**

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**Special opportunity up close and in the wild**

## **Bald Eagle Tour Reservations Open Today at Millerton Lake State Recreation Area**

FRIANT – Come visit Millerton Lake State Recreation Area for a morning of fresh air, quiet surroundings and spectacular viewing of our national bird, the bald eagle. Learn how these bald eagle, ambassadors to their species told us their stories through a five year bald eagle capture and telemetry study.

Millerton Lake SRA, on the border of Fresno and Madera counties, will begin taking reservations today for its annual winter bald eagle tours, which take place on Saturday's and Sunday's during the months of January and February. The cost of the tour is \$15 per person, which includes entry into the park. The maximum capacity for the tour barge "To'quill" is 25 visitors; walk-ons are welcome if space is available. The entire boat can be reserved for \$350. The tour last approximately 3 hours.

Visitors can expect to view Bald eagles and learn about their role in the ecology of Central California. Park rangers and naturalists will share the findings of a five year Millerton Lake SRA bald eagle capture and telemetry study, along with an audiovisual presentation before embarking on To'quill. To'quill is covered, so some protection is offered if it rains. Visitors are advised to dress warmly and be prepared for seasonal weather. The tour goes out on the water under most conditions. Coffee and hot chocolate will be served midway through the tour.

The tour provides lifejackets for each person onboard the vessel over six years of age. Children six years and under must wear their own U.S. Coast Guard approved child-size lifejacket. Visitors are encouraged to bring binoculars for the best viewing of the Bald eagles and other wildlife.

Special group tours are available midweek, if the entire boat is reserved. Those tours are subject to the availability of staff to conduct the tour.

To learn more, contact the Millerton Lake Park Office at (559) 822-2332. Reservations can be made starting today, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Reservations will be provided on a first come first serve basis, so call early as the tours do fill up fast.

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